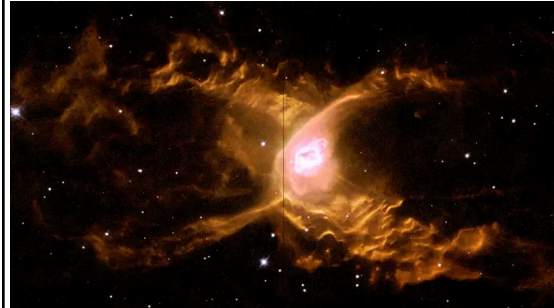




12 Sep 2024

National and International News

Red Spider Nebula



Context:

- NASA's Hubble Space Telescope recently unveiled a stunning image of the **Red Spider Nebula**, a **planetary nebula** located around **3,000 light-years** away from **Earth** in the constellation Sagittarius.

Hottest Star:

- At the core of this nebula is **one of the hottest known stars**.
- The intense heat from this star energizes the surrounding gas, creating shockwaves that extend up to **100 billion kilometers (62 billion miles)** in height.

Nebula:

- A nebula is a **vast, diffuse cloud of gas and dust in interstellar space**.
- Nebulae are often associated with the **life cycle of stars**, serving as **nurseries for new stars and as remnants of dead stars**.
- They come in **various shapes, sizes, and colors**, and their appearance reveals important information about their composition and the processes occurring within them.

Mission Mausam

Context:

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved '**Mission Mausam**' with a budget of **Rs. 2,000 crore over two years**.

Key points:

- **Mission Mausam** is a comprehensive initiative aimed at enhancing **India's capabilities in weather and climate science**.
- The mission will focus on addressing the challenges posed by **extreme weather events and climate change** by equipping citizens and various stakeholders with better tools and information.

Key Features of Mission Mausam:



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- **Research and Development:** Expansion in research related to atmospheric sciences, including weather surveillance, modelling, and forecasting.
- **Advanced Technologies:** Integration of next-generation radars, satellite systems with advanced sensors, high-performance supercomputers, artificial intelligence, and machine learning for precise weather prediction.
- **Comprehensive Forecasting:** Focus on improving weather and climate predictions for monsoons, extreme events, air quality, cyclones, and weather interventions like managing fog, hail, and rain.

Implementing Agencies:

Primary Institutes: The mission will be led by three major institutes under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES):**

- India Meteorological Department
- Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology
- National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting

National Icons for Voter Awareness

Context:

- Paralympic archery champions, **Ms. Sheetal Devi and Shri Rakesh Kumar**, have been appointed as national icons for voter awareness, specifically focusing on Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).
- This recognition by the Election Commission of India (ECI) aims to inspire voter participation across the nation, particularly among PwDs.

Key points:

At just 17 years old, **Ms. Sheetal Devi** has become an inspirational figure for youth and PwDs alike. She hails from **Jammu & Kashmir** and is celebrated for her numerous achievements, including:

- Becoming India's youngest Paralympic medalist.
- Winning gold medals in Individual and Mixed Team events at the 2023 Asian Para Games.
- Earning a silver medal at the 2023 World Archery Para Championship.
- Garnering multiple accolades at the Asian Para Championship.



Achievements of Shri Rakesh Kumar

Shri Rakesh Kumar has represented India twice at the Paralympic Games, showcasing his exceptional skills in archery. His notable achievements include:

- Winning a gold medal in the mixed team event at the 2023 World Archery Para Championship.
- Earning gold, silver, and other accolades in various events at the Asian Para Games 2022-23.
- Representing India at both the **Tokyo and Paris Paralympics**.

Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT)



Context:

The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT), under the **Union Education Ministry**, has introduced a **new website to provide technical terms in all 22 official Indian languages**.

Key Features of the Website:

- **Name of the Portal:** 'shabd.education.gov.in'.
- **Purpose:** The website serves as a central hub for all scientific and technical terminologies in Indian languages.
- **Available Resources:** It hosts glossaries from the CSTT and other institutions or agencies that have prepared similar dictionaries, making them accessible in digital form.

Current Availability:

- **Number of Glossaries:** Currently, the portal provides access to 322 glossaries, featuring approximately 22,00,000 words.
- **Future Goals:** Officials aim to increase the number of glossaries to 450.

CSTT's Role and History:

- **Established:** CSTT was founded in 1961 with the mission of evolving and standardizing scientific and technical terms in Hindi and other Indian languages.
- **Publications:** CSTT publishes textbooks, monographs, and quarterly journals such as '**Vigyan Garima Sindhu**' and '**Gyan Garima Sindhu**'.



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- **Glossaries for Government Use:** It also develops glossaries for government departments, research institutions, and public sector units.

Air Quality Management Exchange Platform

Context:

- The **Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)** has introduced the **Air Quality Management Exchange Platform (AQMx)** following a resolution passed at the **United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6)**.

Purpose of AQMx:

- The platform is designed to help city and national air quality managers with strategies to **improve air quality**.
- It provides access to the latest tools and guidance for air quality monitoring, inventory development, and health impact assessments.
- AQMx addresses air quality management capacity gaps, allowing decision-makers to make informed policies that reflect public health needs.



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